

# PLA

**PLASTRON.** *n. f.* [French.] A piece of leather stuffed, which fencers use, when they teach their scholars, in order to receive the pusses made at them. *Trevoux.*  
Against the post their wicker shields they crush,  
Flourish the sword, and at the *plastron* push. *Dryden.*  
**PLAT.** *v. a.* [from *plat.*] To weave; to make by texture.  
I have seen nests of an Indian bird curiously interwoven and *platted* together. *Roy on the Creation.*  
I never found so much benefit from any expedient, as from a ring, in which my mistress's hair is *platted* in a kind of true lovers knot. *Addison's Spectator, N° 245.*  
**PLAT.** *n. f.* [more properly *plot*; *plot*, Sax.] A small piece of ground.  
Such pleasure took the serpent to behold  
This flow'ry *plat*, the sweet recess of Eve.  
On a *plot* of rising ground,  
I hear the far-off curfew sound,  
Over some wide-water'd shore,  
Swinging slow with fullen roar. *Milton.*  
It passes through banks of violets and *plats* of willow of its own producing. *Spectator.*  
**PLATANE.** *n. f.* [*platane*, Fr. *platanus*, Lat.] The plane tree.  
The *platane* round,  
The carver holm, the mapple seldom inward found. *Spens.*  
I espy'd these, fair and tall,  
Under a *platane*. *Milton.*  
**PLATE.** *n. f.* [*plate*, Dutch; *plaque*, Fr.]  
1. A piece of metal beat out into breadth.  
In his livery  
Walk'd crowns and coronets, realms and islands were  
As *plates* dropt from his pocket. *Shakespeare.*  
Make a *plate*, and burnish it as they do iron. *Bacon.*  
A leaden bullet-shot from one of these guns, the space of twenty paces, will be beaten into a thin *plate*. *Wilkins.*  
The centers of these wretches, who could derive no fanciness to them; yet in that they had been consecrated by the offering incense, were appointed to be beaten into broad *plates*, and fastened upon the altar. *South's Sermons.*  
Eternal deities!  
Who rule the world with absolute decrees,  
And write whatever time shall bring to pass  
With pens of adamant on *plates* of brass. *Dryden.*  
2. Armour of plates.  
With their force they pierc'd both *plate* and mail,  
And made wide furrows in their fleshes frail. *Fa. Queen.*  
3. [*Plata*, Spanish.] Wrought silver.  
They eat on beds of silk and gold,  
And leaving *plate*,  
Do drink in stone of higher rate. *Benj. Johnson's Cataline.*  
The Turks entered into the trenches so far, that they carried away the *plate*. *Kueller's Hist. of the Turks.*  
They that but now for honour and for *plate*,  
Made the sea blush with blood, resign their hate. *Waller.*  
At your desert bright pewter comes too late,  
When your first couric was all serv'd up in *plate*. *King.*  
4. [*Plat*, Fr. *piatta*, Italian.] A small shallow vessel of metal on which meat is eaten.  
Acanus this observ'd, and, smiling, said,  
See, we devour the *plates* on which we fed. *Dryden.*  
**TO PLATE.** *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To cover with plates.  
The doors are curiously cut through and *plated*. *Sandys.*  
M. Lepidus's house had a marble door-case; afterwards they had gilded ones, or rather *plated* with gold. *Arbutnot.*  
2. To arm with plates.  
*Plate* sin with gold,  
And the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks. *Shakespeare.*  
Marshall, ask yonder knight in arms,  
Why *plated* in habiliments of war?  
His goodly eyes,  
That o'er the files and musters of the war,  
Have glow'd like *plated* Mars. *Shakespeare.*  
The bold Acalonite  
Fled from his lion ramp, old warriors turn'd  
Their *plated* backs under his heel. *Milton.*  
3. To beat into laminae or plates.  
If to fame alone thou dost pretend,  
The miser will his empty palace lend,  
Set wide his doors, adorn'd with *plated* brass. *Dryden.*  
If a thinned or *plated* body, of an uneven thickness, which appears all over of one uniform colour, should be slit into threads of the same thickness with the *plate*; I see no reason why every thread should not keep its colour. *Newton.*  
**PLATEN.** *n. f.* Among printers, the flat part of the press whereby the impression is made.  
**PLATFORM.** *n. f.* [*plat*, flat, Fr. and *form*.]  
1. The sketch of any thing horizontally delineated; the ichnography.  
When the workmen began to lay the *platform* at Chalcedon, eagles conveyed their lines to the other side of the freight. *Sandys's Journey.*

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2. A place laid out after any model.  
No artful wildness to perplex the scene;  
Grove nods at grove, each alley has a brother,  
And half the *platform* just reflects the other. *Pope.*  
3. A level place before a fortification.  
Where was this?  
— Upon the *platform* where we watch. *Shakespeare.*  
4. A scheme; a plan.  
Their minds and affections were universally bent even against all the orders and laws wherein this church is founded, conformable to the *platform* of Geneva. *Hosier.*  
I have made a *platform* of a princely garden by precept, partly by drawing not a model, but some general lines of it. *Bacon's Essays.*  
They who take in the entire *platform*, and see the chain, which runs through the whole, and can bear in mind the observations and proofs, will discern how these propositions flow from them. *Woodward.*  
**PLATICK aspect.** In astrology, is a ray cast from one planet to another, not exactly, but within the orbit of its own light. *Bailly.*  
**PLATOON.** *n. f.* [a corruption of *peloton*, Fr.] A small square body of musketeers, drawn out of a battalion of foot, when they form the hollow square, to strengthen the angles: the grenadiers are generally thus posted; yet a party from any other division is called a *platoon*, when intending to far from the main body. *Military Dict.*  
In comely wounds shall bleeding worthies stand,  
Webb's firm *platoon*, and Lumley's faithful band. *Tickell.*  
**PLATTER.** *n. f.* [from *plate*.] A large dish, generally of earth.  
The servants wash the *platter*, scour the plate,  
Then blow the fire. *Dryden's Juvenal.*  
Satira is an adjective, to which lanx, a charger, or large *platter* is understood. *Dryden.*  
**PLAUDIT.** *n. f.* [A word derived from the Latin, *plaudite*, PLAUDITE.] The demand of applause made by the player, when he left the stage. Applause.  
True wisdom must our actions so direct,  
Not only the last *plaudit* to expect. *Denham.*  
She would so shamefully fail in the last act, that instead of a *plaudit*, she would deserve to be hissed off the stage. *Mars.*  
Some men find more melody in discord than in the angelic quires; yet even these can discern music in a concert of *plaudites*, eulogies given themselves. *Dancy of Pitt.*  
**PLAUSIBILITY.** *n. f.* [*plausibilis*, Fr. from *plausibile*.] Speciousness; superficial appearance of right.  
Two pamphlets, called the management of the war, are written with some *plausibility*, much artifice and direct falsehoods. *Swift.*  
The last excuse for the slow steps made in disarming the adversaries of the crown, was allowed indeed to have more *plausibility*, but less truth, than any of the former. *Swift.*  
**PLAUSIBLE.** *adj.* [*plausibile*, Fr. *plausibilis*, from *plaudere*, Lat.] Such as gains approbation; superficially pleasing or taking; specious; popular; right in appearance.  
Go you to Angelo, answer his requiring with a *plausible* obedience, agree with his demands to the point. *Shakespeare.*  
Judges ought to be more reverend than *plausible*, and more advised than confident. *Bacon.*  
They found out that *plausible* and popular pretext of raising an army to fetch in delinquents. *King Charles.*  
These were all *plausible* and popular arguments, in which they, who most desired peace, would insinuate upon many confusions. *Clarendon.*  
No treachery to *plausible*, as that which is covered with the robe of a guide. *L'Estrange.*  
The case is doubtful, and may be disputed with *plausible* arguments on either side. *South.*  
**PLAUSIBLENESS.** *n. f.* [from *plausible*.] Speciousness; show of right.  
The *plausibleness* of arminianism, and the congruity it hath with the principles of corrupt nature. *Sanderfon.*  
The notion of man's free will, and the nature of sin bears along with it a commendable plainness and *plausibleness*. *Mars.*  
**PLAUSIBLY.** *adv.* [from *plausible*.]  
1. With fair show; speciously.  
They could talk *plausibly* about that they did not understand, but their learning lay chiefly in flourish. *Collier.*  
Thou can't *plausibly* dispute,  
Supreme of fears, of angel, man and brute. *Prior.*  
2. With applause. Not in use.  
I hope they will *plausibly* receive our attempts, or candidly correct our misconceptions. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
**PLAUSIVE.** *adj.* [from *plaudere*, Lat.]  
1. Applauding.  
2. Plausible. A word not in use.  
His *plausive* words  
He scatter'd not in cars; but grafted them  
To grow there and to bear. *Shakespeare.*  
**TO PLAY.**

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**TO PLAY.** *v. n.* [plezan, Saxon.]  
1. To sport; to frolic; to do something not as a task, but for a pleasure.  
On smooth the seal and bended dolphins *play*. *Milton.*  
2. To toy; to act with levity.  
Thou with eternal wisdom did'st converse,  
Wisdom thy sister and with her didst *play*. *Milton.*  
3. To be dismissed from work.  
I'll bring my young man to school; look where his master comes; 'tis a *playing* day I see. *Shakespeare, Mer. W. of Windsor.*  
4. To trifle; to act wantonly and thoughtlessly.  
Men are apt to *play* with their healths and their lives as they do with their cloaths. *Temple.*  
5. To do something fanciful.  
How every fool can *play* upon the word! *Shakespeare.*  
6. To practise facetious merriment.  
I would make use of it rather to *play* upon those I despised, than to trifle with those I loved. *Pope.*  
7. To mock; to practise illusion.  
I saw him dead; are thou alive,  
Or is it fancy plays upon our eye-sight? *Shakespeare.*  
8. To game; to contend at some game.  
Charles, I will *play* no more to-night;  
My mind's not on't, you are too hard for me. *Shakespeare.*  
— Sir, I did never win of you before. *Shakespeare.*  
When lenity and cruelty *play* for kingdoms,  
The gentler gamester is the soonest winner. *Shakespeare.*  
O perdurable shame!  
At these the wretches that we *play'd* at dice for. *Shakespeare.*  
The low rated English *play* at dice. *Swift.*  
The clergyman *played* at whist and twobbers. *Swift.*  
9. To do any thing trickish or deceitful.  
His mother *played* false with a smith. *Shakespeare.*  
Cawdor, Glamis, all  
The wizzard women promis'd; and, I fear,  
Thou *play'd'st* most foully for't. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*  
Life is not long enough for a coquette to *play* all her tricks in. *Addison's Spectator, N° 89.*  
10. To touch a musical instrument.  
Be'y thing that heard him *play*,  
Ev'n the billows of the sea  
Hung their heads; and then lay by,  
In sweet music is such art,  
Killing care, and grief of heart,  
Falksleep, or hearing die. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*  
Then art as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can *play* well on an instrument. *Ezekiel.*  
Tully says, there consisteth in the practice of singing and *playing* on instruments great knowledge, and the most excellent instruction, which rectifies and orders our manners, and softens the heart of anger. *Peacocks of Music.*  
Wherein doth our practice of singing and *playing* with instruments in our cathedral churches differ from the practice of David. *Peacocks of Music.*  
Child like a country swain, he pip'd, he sung,  
And *playing* drove his jolly troop along.  
Take thy harp and melt thy maid;  
*Play*, my friend! and charm the charmer. *Glanville.*  
He applied the pipe to his lips, and began to *play* upon it: the sound of it was exceeding sweet. *Addison's Spectator.*  
11. To operate; to act. Used of any thing in motion.  
John hath seiz'd Arthur, and it cannot be,  
That whilst warm life *plays* in that infant's veins,  
The misplac'd John should entertain  
One quiet breath of rest. *Shakespeare, King John.*  
My wife cried out fire, and you brought out your buckets, and called for engines to *play* against it. *Dryden.*  
By constant laws, the food is concocted, the heart beats, the blood circulates, the lungs *play*. *Cheyne.*  
12. To wanton; to move irregularly.  
Citherea all in jedges hid,  
Which seem to move and wanton with her breath,  
Ev'n as the waving edg'es *play* with wind. *Shakespeare.*  
This with exhilarating vapour bland  
About their spirits *play'd*, and inmost powers  
Made err. *Milton.*  
In the streams that from the fountain *play*,  
She wash'd her face. *Dryden.*  
The setting sun  
*Plays* on their shining arms and burnish'd helmets,  
And covers all the field with gleams of fire. *Addison.*  
13. To personate a drama.  
A lord will hear you *play* to-night;  
But I am doubtful of your modesties,  
Left, over-eying of his odd behaviour,  
Not yet his honour never heard a *play*,  
You break into some merry passion. *Shakespeare.*  
Ev'n kings but *play*; and when their part is done,  
Some other, worse or better, mount the throne. *Dryden.*  
14. To represent a character.  
Courts are theatres, where some men *play*;  
Princes, some slaves, and all end in one day. *Donne.*

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15. To act in any certain character.  
Thus we *play* the fool with the time, and the spirits of the wife fit in the clouds and mock us. *Shakespeare.*  
I did not think to shed a tear  
In all my miseries; but thou hast forc'd me,  
Out of thy honest truth to *play* the woman. *Shakespeare.*  
She hath wrought folly to *play* the whore. *Deut. xxii. 21.*  
Be of good courage, and let us *play* the men for our people. *2 Samuel x. 12.*  
Alphonse, duke of Ferrara, delighted himself only in turning and *playing* the joiner. *Peacocks of Music.*  
'Tis possible these Turks may *play* the villains. *Denham.*  
A man has no pleasure in proving that he has *played* the fool. *Callier of Friendship.*  
**TO PLAY.** *v. a.*  
1. To put in action or motion; as, he *played* his cannon.  
2. To use an instrument of music.  
He *plays* a tickling straw within his nose. *Gay.*  
3. To act a mirthful character.  
Nature here  
Wanton'd as in her prime, and *play'd* at will  
Her virgin fancies. *Milton.*  
4. To exhibit dramatically.  
Your honour's players hearing your amendment,  
Are come to *play* a pleasant comedy. *Shakespeare.*  
5. To act; to perform.  
Doubt would fain have *played* his part in her mind, and called in question, how she should be assured that Zelmane was not Pyrocles. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
**PLAY.** *n. f.*  
1. Action not imposed; not work; dismissal from work.  
2. Amusement; sport.  
My darling and my joy;  
For love of me leave off this dreadful *play*. *Fa. Queen.*  
Two gentle fawns at *play*. *Milton.*  
3. A drama; a comedy of tragedy, or any thing in which characters are represented by dialogue and action.  
Only they,  
That come to hear a merry *play*,  
Will be deceiv'd. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*  
A *play* ought to be a just image of human nature, representing its humours and the changes of fortune to which it is subject, for the delight and instruction of mankind. *Dryden.*  
Visits, *plays* and powder'd beaux. *Swift.*  
4. Game; practice of gaming; contest at a game.  
I will *play* no more, my mind's not on't;  
I did never win of you,  
Nor shall not when my fancy's on my *play*. *Shakespeare.*  
5. Practice in any contest.  
When they can make nothing else on't, they find it the best of their *play* to put it off with a jest. *L'Estrange.*  
He was resolv'd not to speak distinctly, knowing his best *play* to be in the dark, and that all his safety lay in the confusion of his talk. *Tilolson.*  
In arguing the opponent uses comprehensive and equivocal terms, to involve his adversary in the doubtfulness of his expression, and therefore the answer on his side makes it his *play* to distinguish as much as he can. *Locke.*  
Bull's friends advised to gentler methods with the young lord; but John naturally lov'd rough *play*. *Arbutnot.*  
6. Action; employment; office.  
The fencible plea of right by providence  
Can last no longer than the present sway;  
But justifies the next who comes in *play*. *Dryden.*  
7. Practice; action; manner of acting.  
Determining, as after I knew, in secret manner, not to be far from the place where we appointed to meet, to prevent any foul *play* that might be offered unto me. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
8. Act of touching an instrument.  
9. Irregular and wanton motion.  
10. A state of agitation or ventilation.  
Many have been fav'd, and many may,  
Who never heard this question brought in *play*. *Dryden.*  
11. Room for motion.  
The joints are let exactly into one another, that they have no *play* between them, lest they shake upwards or downwards. *Moson's Mechanical Exercises.*  
12. Liberty of acting; swing.  
Should a writer give the full *play* to his mirth, without regard to decency, he might please readers; but must be a very ill man, if he could please himself. *Addison's Freeholder.*  
**PLAYBOOK.** *n. f.* [*play* and *book*.] Book of dramatick compositions.  
Your's was a match of common good liking, without any mixture of that ridiculous passion, which has no being but in *playbooks* and romances. *Swift.*  
**PLAYDAY.** *n. f.* [*play* and *day*.] Day exempt from talks or work.  
I thought the life of every lady  
Should be one continual *playday*;  
Balls and masquerades and shows. *Swift's Miscellanies.*  
**PLAYDEBT.**